Can You Be Absent from the Body of Christ for Months or Years?

When you were born again, did you have a spiritual parent, as Timothy had Paul?

• □ Answer: No (incorrect) — Explanation: To say that you were born again, but you did not have a spiritual parent means:

• Ignoring the biblical model of discipleship and spiritual growth.

• Assuming that a spiritual infant can feed and develop on its own, which is contrary to Scripture.

• To confuse preachers or religious leaders with true spiritual parents.

• A spiritual birth without family, care, and guidance raises serious questions about its authenticity.

• Ignoring the Body's responsibility to nurture and protect the newly born.

Such a situation shows that no genuine rebirth has taken place, neither in those who should be parents nor in those who are considered "children."

God does not give birth to children only to leave them orphaned. The Holy Spirit works in a living Body, where each child is entrusted to spiritual parents who watch over them with love and responsibility.

The Holy Spirit leaves no one an orphan, but works through mature brothers who care for those who are young in the faith, providing them with nourishment, correction, encouragement, and direction.

Where this work does not exist, there is no Body of Christ, but a dead structure, devoid of life and the presence of the Head, who is Christ.

□ Answer: Yes — Explanation: A born-again Christian, like an infant, needs a spiritual parent to care for him, teach him, rebuke him with love, and help him grow in Christ.

Just as Timothy had Paul—not only as a teacher, but as a spiritual father—so God appoints mature believers to give birth to and train disciples. Paul calls Timothy “my beloved child, faithful in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 4:17) and addresses him with words full of fatherly care: “The command I give you, Timothy my son...” (1 Timothy 1:18).

Being born again is not just a personal experience, but an entry into a spiritual family. Having a spiritual parent is proof that you have been received into the Body of Christ

and that God has ordained for you a healthy growth, not a life of isolation or spiritual self-teaching.

When there are spiritual parents, lively fellowship, loving correction, and growth in obedience to the Word, the conditions for authentic new birth are met. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in a living body, where each member has its place, serves and is served, and Christ is the Head who gives life, direction, and unity.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "Are You Truly Born Again? – Biblical Questionnaire", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.